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EIS002231

01 SUPERVISOR JON MIKELS: Thank you for taking the  
02 time also to conduct the hearing in San Bernardino  
03 County, through which much of the waste is proposed to  
04 be transported. My name is Jon Mikels; I am the  
05 Chairman of our Board of Supervisors here in San  
06 Bernardino County. And I found out about your plans to  
07 haul the high-level nuclear waste through our county  
08 from a newspaper article in the "San Bernardino Sun."

1 09 Needless to say, I would have preferred more  
10 notice, and it would have been appropriate to hear this  
11 from you rather than the press; but regardless of that,  
2 12 I am pleased that we did find out before the trucks and  
13 the trains get rolling. And I am pleased to see you  
14 here today and that you have extended the comment  
15 period, I believe, until the 28th so that our county  
16 staff can review that document and make the appropriate  
17 comments.

18 The preliminary review from our staff, though,  
19 has perhaps provided the -- one of the reasons why  
20 perhaps you did want to come to San Bernardino County to  
21 see us. It's clear that the transport of the  
22 radioactive waste will go directly through our county on  
23 one of its main arteries.

3 24 As Congressman Baca has just indicated, I-15,  
25 especially on the weekends, carries a tremendous amount  
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01 of traffic. And there's no other way to get there from  
02 San Onofre and the other locations from which waste will  
03 be transported except through this county. Yet your  
04 study -- and I have to admit I have only read the  
05 summary, but my staff -- I have started on the full  
06 document -- two documents. My staff have already delved  
07 into it, and they have indicated that the study barely  
08 touches on the impact on the public of transporting the  
09 waste through San Bernardino County. And that seems to  
10 me to be a tremendous oversight.

4... 11 The fact that there's never been a major  
12 accident involving high-level nuclear waste on our

13 nation's highways will be of little comfort to the  
14 victims in our county should an accident occur here.  
15 There's little, if anything, in your report to tell us  
16 what effect this waste will have on a community of human  
17 beings in the event of a disaster.

18 And my question is, has the EIS made that  
19 determination? In other words, do you know?

20 Perhaps we will be lucky enough to avoid human  
21 casualties in the event of an accident, but can you tell  
22 us for how many years or how many decades you will have  
23 to close down I-15 should an accident occur, and what  
24 impact it will have -- the economic impacts of that.

25 The fact that there's not been one, is not  
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01 evidence that there will never be one. And we have to  
02 understand what that means. We need to be prepared, and  
03 you need to be prepared to handle an accident. And I  
04 don't see -- and my staff sees scant treatment of that  
05 within the EIS document itself.

5 06 In the Inland Empire here our highways are the  
07 lifeline of our economic system. We have worked hard to  
08 struggle for many years to recover from recession, and  
09 our region is now recovered, and we stand on the brink  
10 of an economic rebirth. We don't intend to stand by as  
11 a poorly-thought-out plan threatens not only our  
12 economy, but the health and welfare of our citizens as  
13 well.

14 At the very least, we would like you to go back  
15 to the drawing board, and this time think about the  
16 people on the roads leading to Yucca Mountain. Come  
17 back to us with something that will assure us that we  
18 have nothing to fear, with trucks and trains barreling  
19 through our county filled with high-level nuclear waste,  
20 or find something else to do with the stuff.

21 With me here today are several county  
22 employees, technical staff, who have looked over the  
23 environmental impact studies I indicated. They are  
24 going to be making comments a little bit later on, and I

25 hope you listen to those and the document is modified to  
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01 reflect those comments and concerns, because it does not  
02 appear, as written, it does that.  
03 Thank you very much.  
04 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you, sir.